all new
CHARLTON COMICS
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DOOMSDAY +1
NO. 5 MAR
00121 76/CDC
WE FOUR ARE THE ONLY SURVIVORS!
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE ALIVE!
00121
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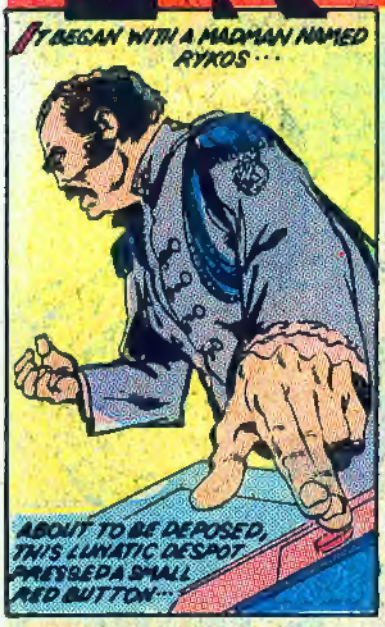
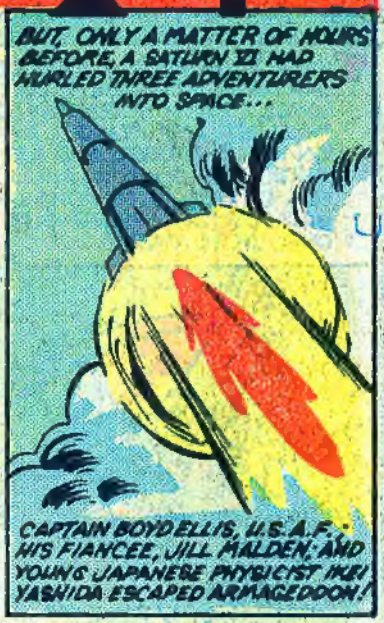
JOHN LORE 3

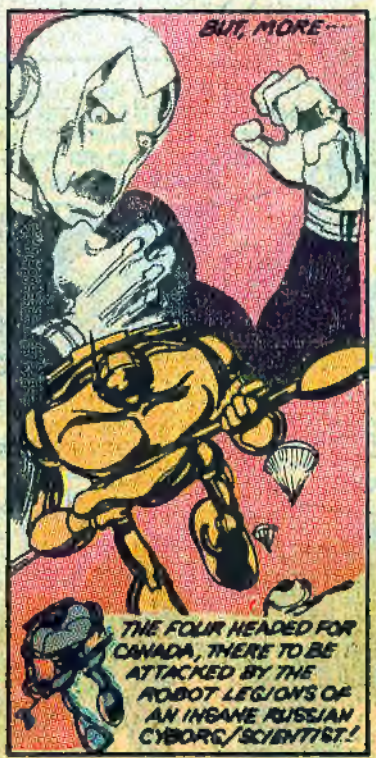
PROLOGUE



···SENDING NUCLEAR DEATH HURTLING AT NEW YORK AND MOSCOW! EACH NATION BELIEVED IT WAS THE OTHER WHO HAD ATTACKED···
RETALIATION WAS SWIFT, TERRIBLE, AND TOTAL···


BUT, ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS BEFORE, A SATURN XI HAD HURLED THREE ADVENTURERS INTO SPACE···
CAPTAIN BOYD ELLIS, U.S.A.F.·· HIS FIANCEE, JILL MALDEN: AND YOUNG JAPANESE PHYSICIST IKKI YASHIDA ESCAPED ARMAGEDDON!

WEEKS LATER, WHEN RADIATION LEVELS DIED DOWN, THEY RETURNED, LANDING ON THE MELTING ICE OF GREENLAND···
THEIR RETURN DID NOT GO UNOBSERVED! THE ONLOOKER WAS KUNO, A 3RD CENTURY GOTH, APPARENTLY RESURRECTED FROM THE ICE-CAP!



DOOMSDAY + 1

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A MrBC Scan!

RULE of FEAR

THESE FOUR PEOPLE, *CAPT. BOYD ELLIS*, U.S.A.F. PILOT AND NASA ASTRONAUT; *JILL MALDEN*, YOUNG AND LOVELY NASA SCIENTIST; *DR. IKEI YASHIDA*, JAPANESE PHYSICIST; AND *KUNO*.... A WARRIOR OF THE GOTHS, 'ON ICE' IN GREENLAND FOR 1500 YEARS.... WERE AIRBORNE ONCE AGAIN.... CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR OTHER SURVIVORS OF THE NUCLEAR WAR THAT HAD NEARLY WIPED-OUT ALL LAND CREATURES ON OUR PLANET!

LOOK, KUNO. NEARLY NINE MILLION PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN NEW YORK CITY WHEN THE BOMBS FELL!

IN BOOK I READ, MAN SAID GOTHIC TRIBES WERE BARBARIANS. GOTHS NOT BARBARIANS! *PEOPLE WHO DO THIS BARBARIANS!*

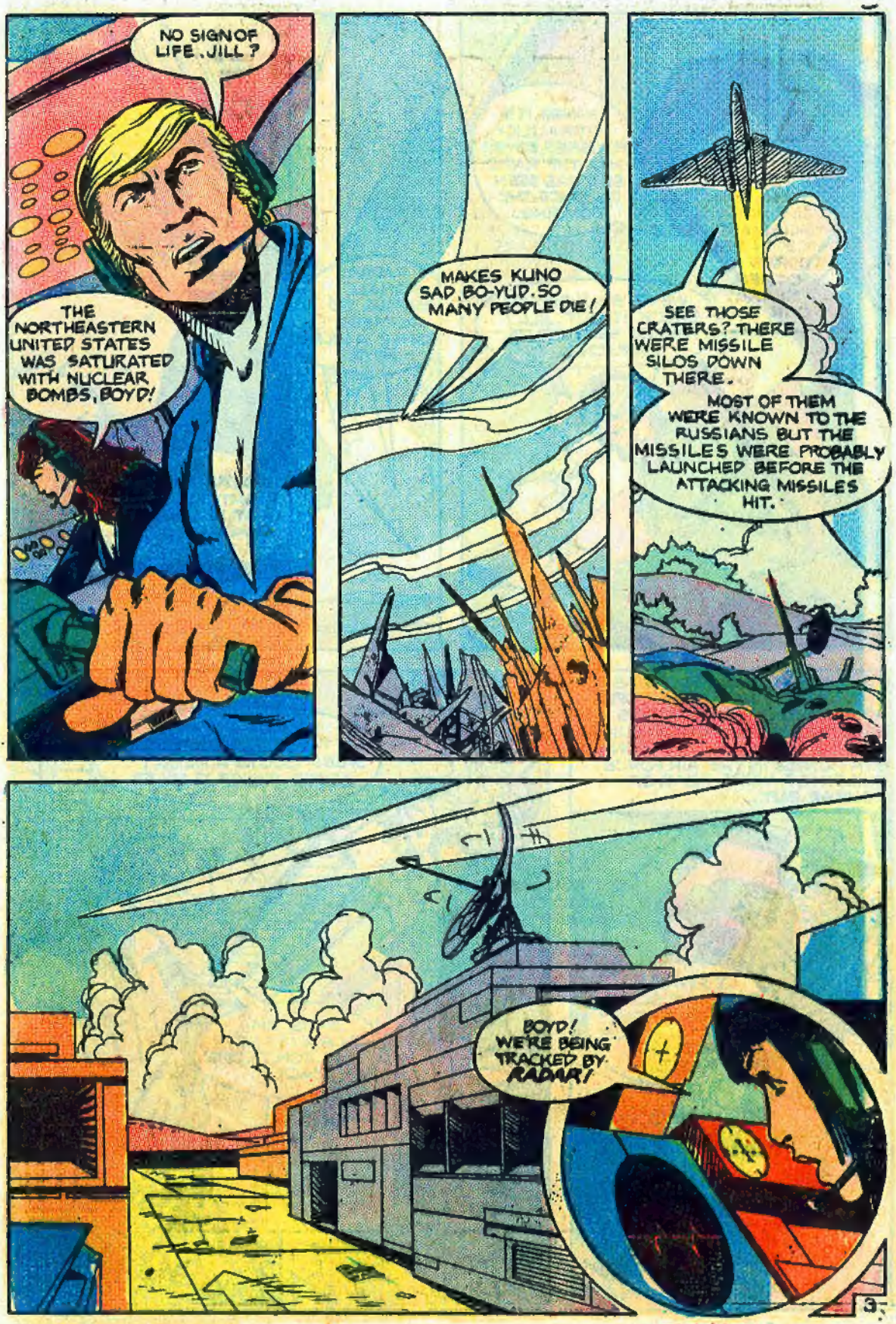
KUNO IS RIGHT, JILL. HE'S LEARNED FAST, HASN'T HE?

KUNO, COME TO THE NAVIGATOR'S COMPARTMENT. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

KUNO AND IKEI ARE UP TO SOMETHING, JILL!

I HOPE IT ISN'T WHAT I THINK IT IS, BOYD!

EDITING: GEORGE WILDMAN
STORY: JOE GILL
ART: BYRNE ROBOTICS
WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM PATTERSON-75


NO SIGN OF LIFE, JILL?
THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES WAS SATURATED WITH NUCLEAR BOMBS, BOYD!
MAKES KUNO SAD, BO-YUD. SO MANY PEOPLE DIE!
SEE THOSE CRATERS? THERE WERE MISSILE SILOS DOWN THERE.
MOST OF THEM WERE KNOWN TO THE RUSSIANS BUT THE MISSILES WERE PROBABLY LAUNCHED BEFORE THE ATTACKING MISSILES HIT.
BOYD! WE'RE BEING TRACKED BY RADAR!

MAYBE IT'S HYDRAULIC-POWERED, BOYD, AND THE RADIO SET HAS BEEN ON SINCE THE BOMBING.
WE'VE STILL GOT TO CHECK IT OUT, JILL! FASTEN SEAT BELTS, EVERYONE.
RADAR SIGNALS BEARING 195 DEGREES, RANGE 14 MILES, BOYD.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, JILL.... BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE IS ALIVE DOWN THERE?
THE MINUTEMAN SILO WAS CLOSED. IT HAD NEVER OPENED THOSE MASSIVE DOORS SHELTERING THE DEADLY GUIDED MISSILE BELOW. THE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE AIR FORCE BUILDINGS WERE DEAD, OF COURSE, BUT...
I FINALLY PICKED-UP SOMETHIN' ON RADAR! TELL THE SARGE WE GOT US A PIGEON!
THERE'S A PLANE UP THERE, SARGE. BOMBER, SPEED 1300 MPH, HEIGHT 20,000, RANGE 12 MILES.
BRING 'EM IN, ACE! IF YA MISS, DON'T COME BACK!
9

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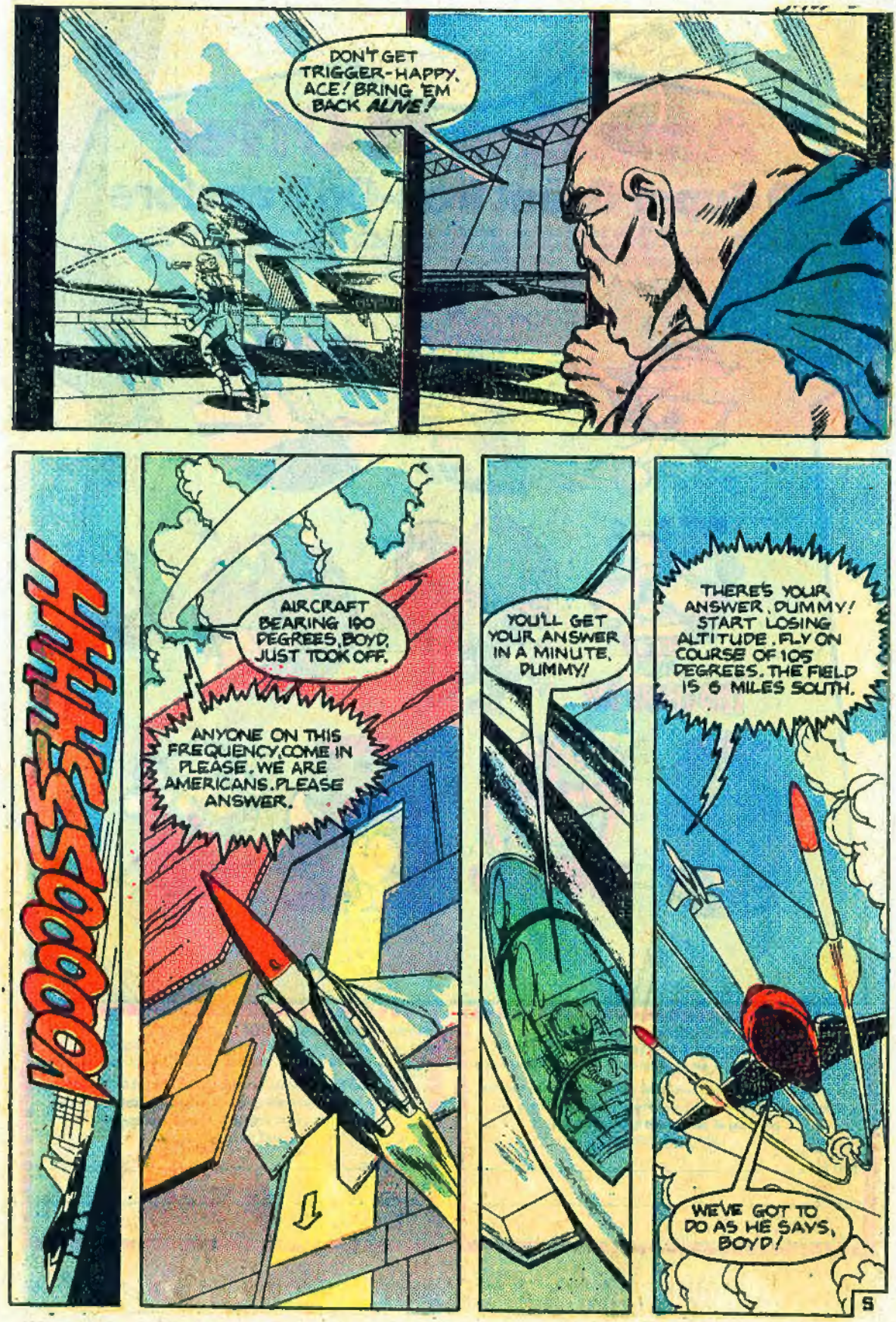
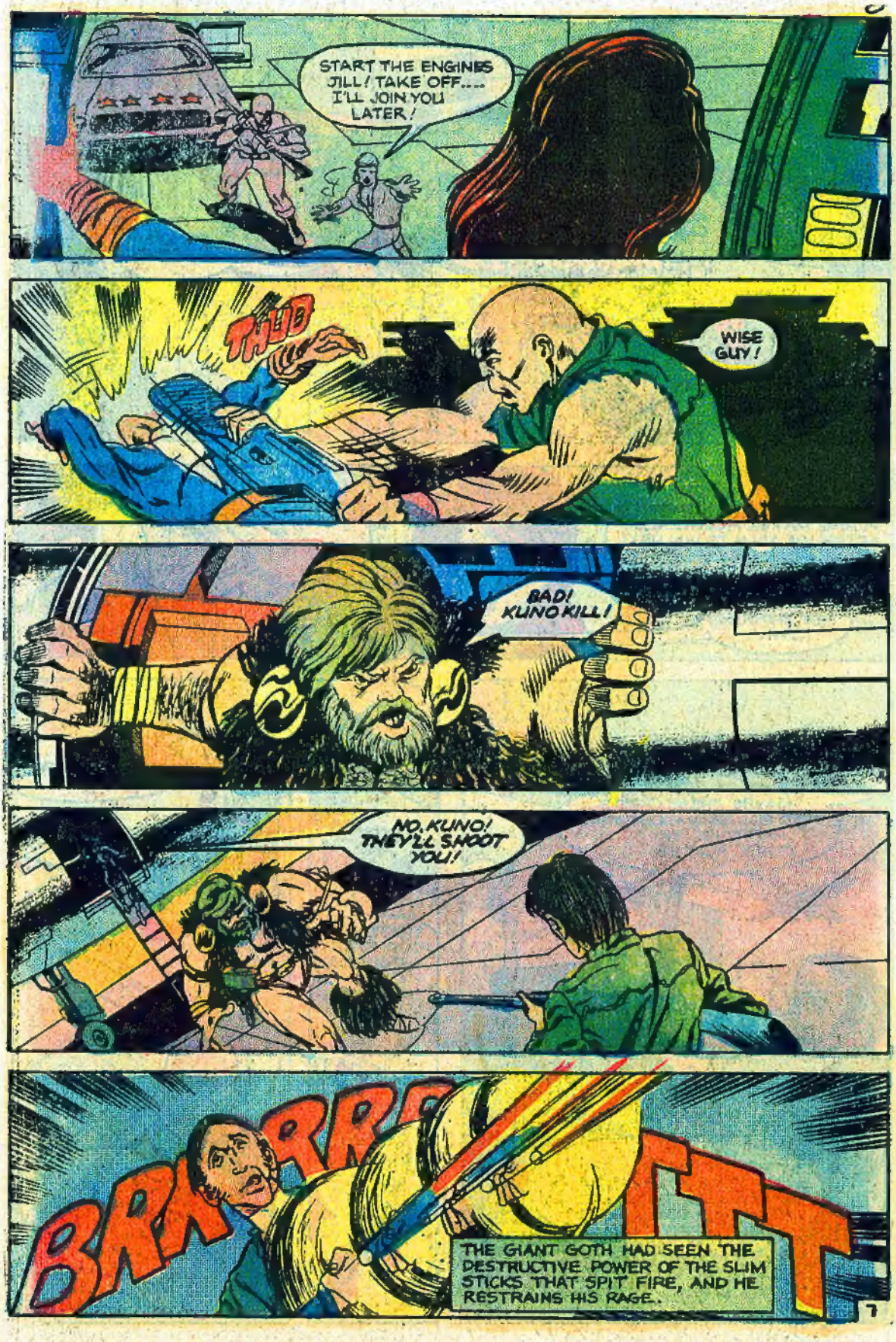
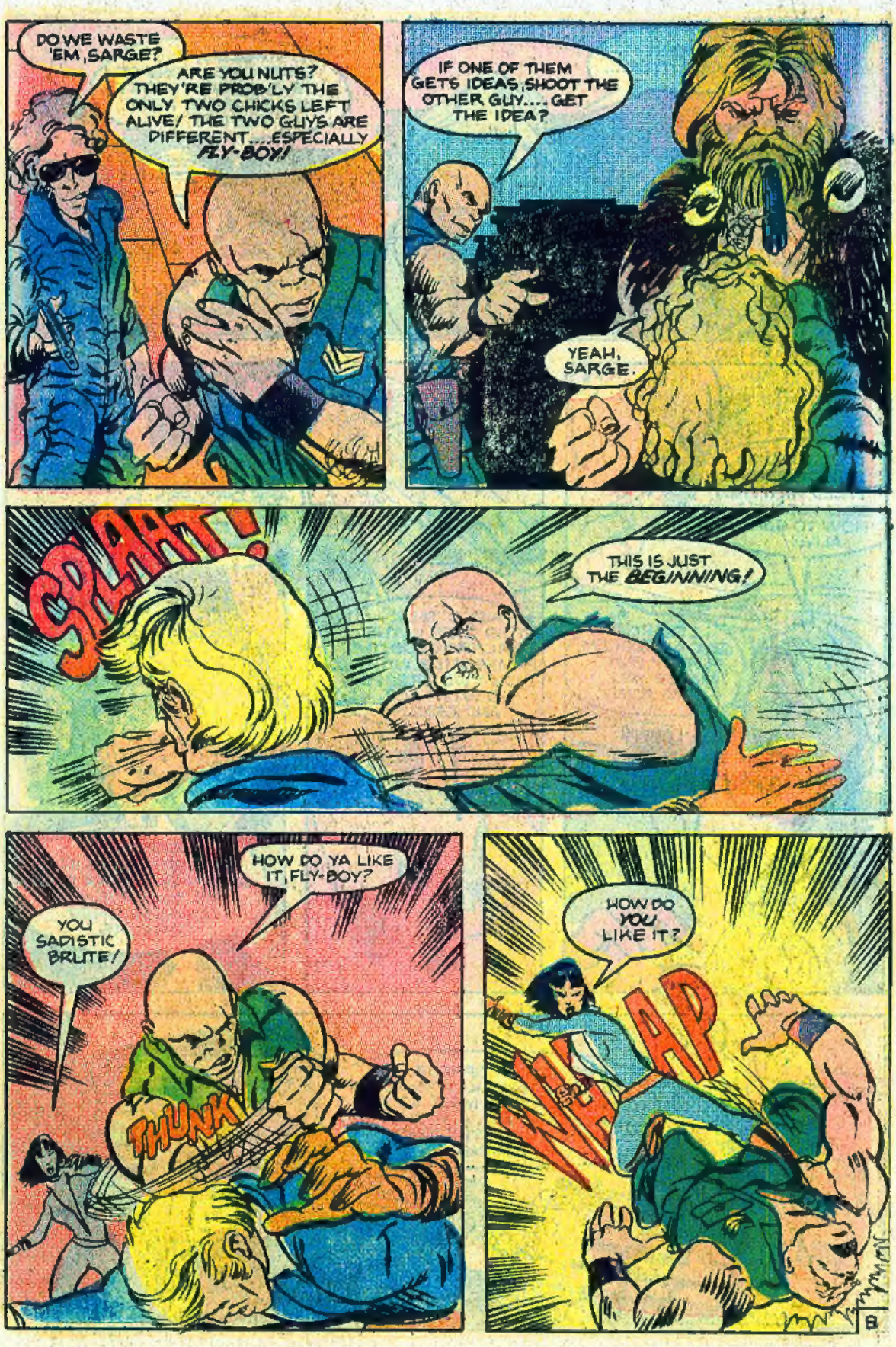
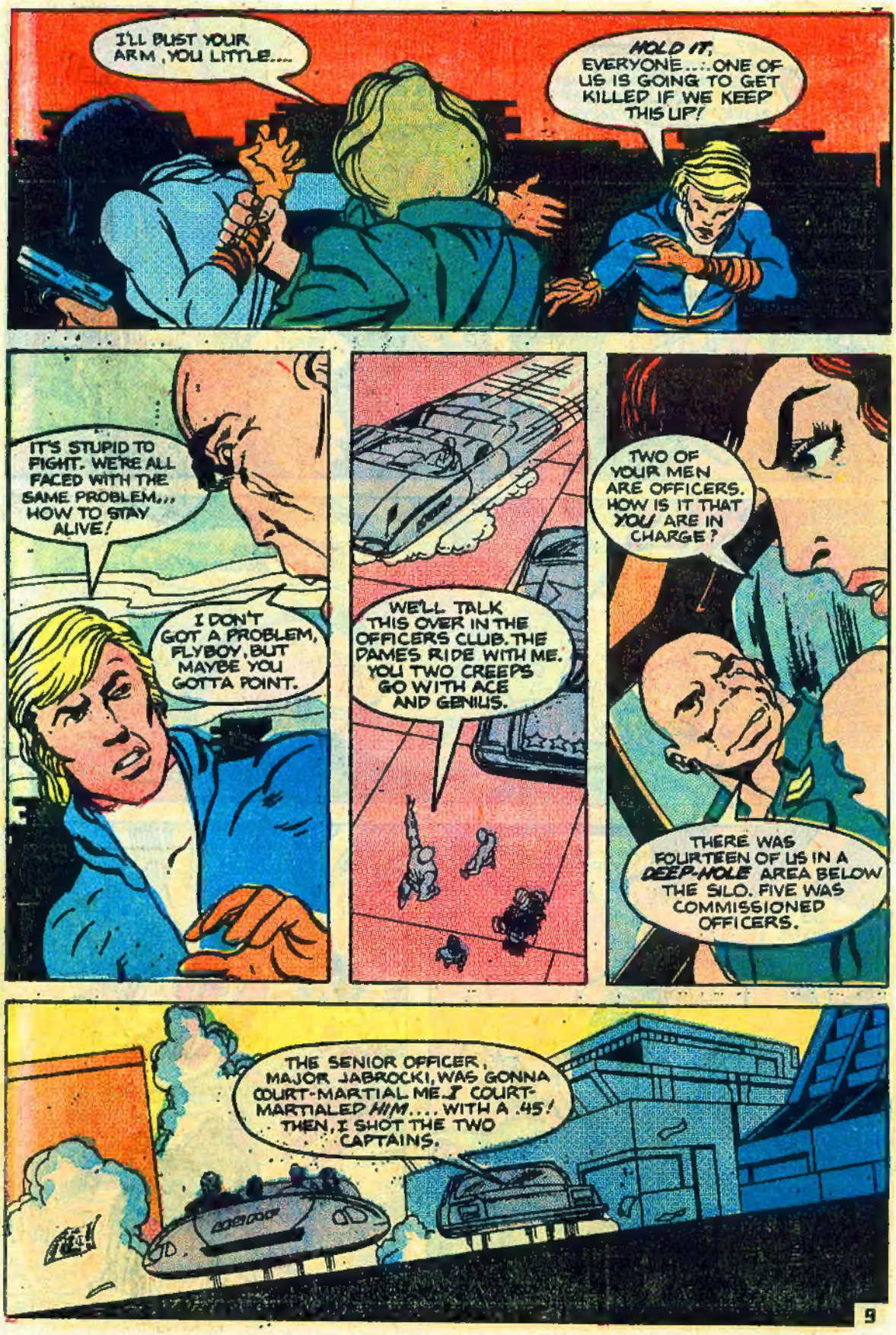
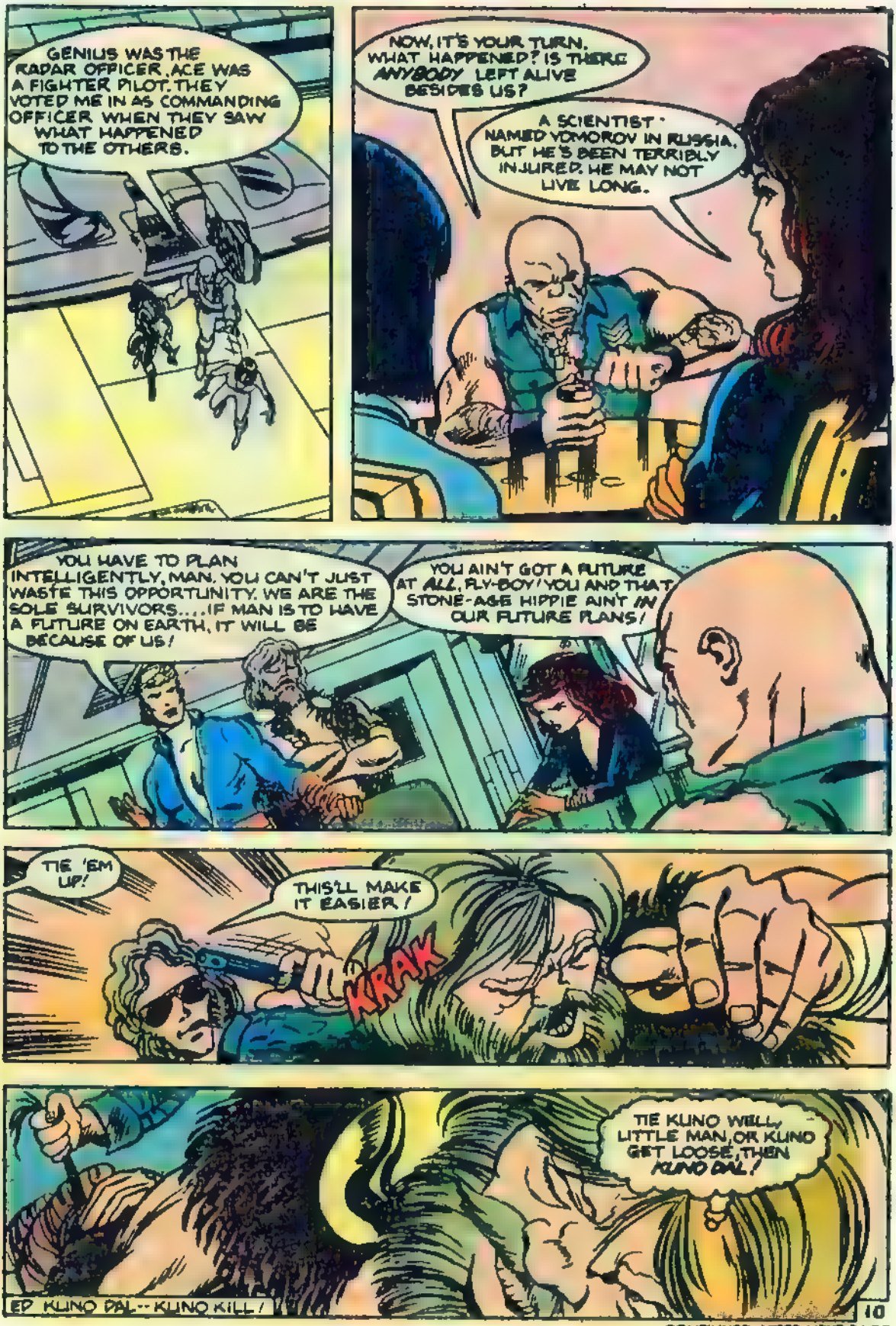

DON'T GET TRIGGER-HAPPY, ACE! BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE!
HHESSOOO

DON'T GET ANY BRIGHT IDEAS OR I'LL PUT A FEW CANNON SHELLS INTO THE COCKPIT!
KUNO NOT LIKE!
IT'S ALRIGHT, KUNO. THE PILOT OF THE FIGHTER PLANE MAY BE FRIGHTENED. AFTER WE TALK TO HIM, HE'LL BE MORE FRIENDLY.
KUNO NOT THINK SO, JIH.
I TOLD YA THERE'D BE OTHER SURVIVORS, SLICK.
MAYBE THESE CREEPS CAN FILL US IN ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENIN' IN OTHER PLACES.
WHAT IF THEY'RE BIG BRASS? WHAT IF THEY HAVE TROOPS SOMEWHERE THEY ALREADY RADIOED TO COME AND GET US?
THAT'S A FOUR-STAR GENERAL'S CAR!
WHERE IS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER?
AT EASE, FLYBOY, I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE! WHO ELSE YA GOT IN THE PLANE?


START THE ENGINES JILL! TAKE OFF.... I'LL JOIN YOU LATER!
THUD
WISE GUY!
BAD! KUNO KILL!
NO, KUNO! THEY'LL SHOOT YOU!
BRRR

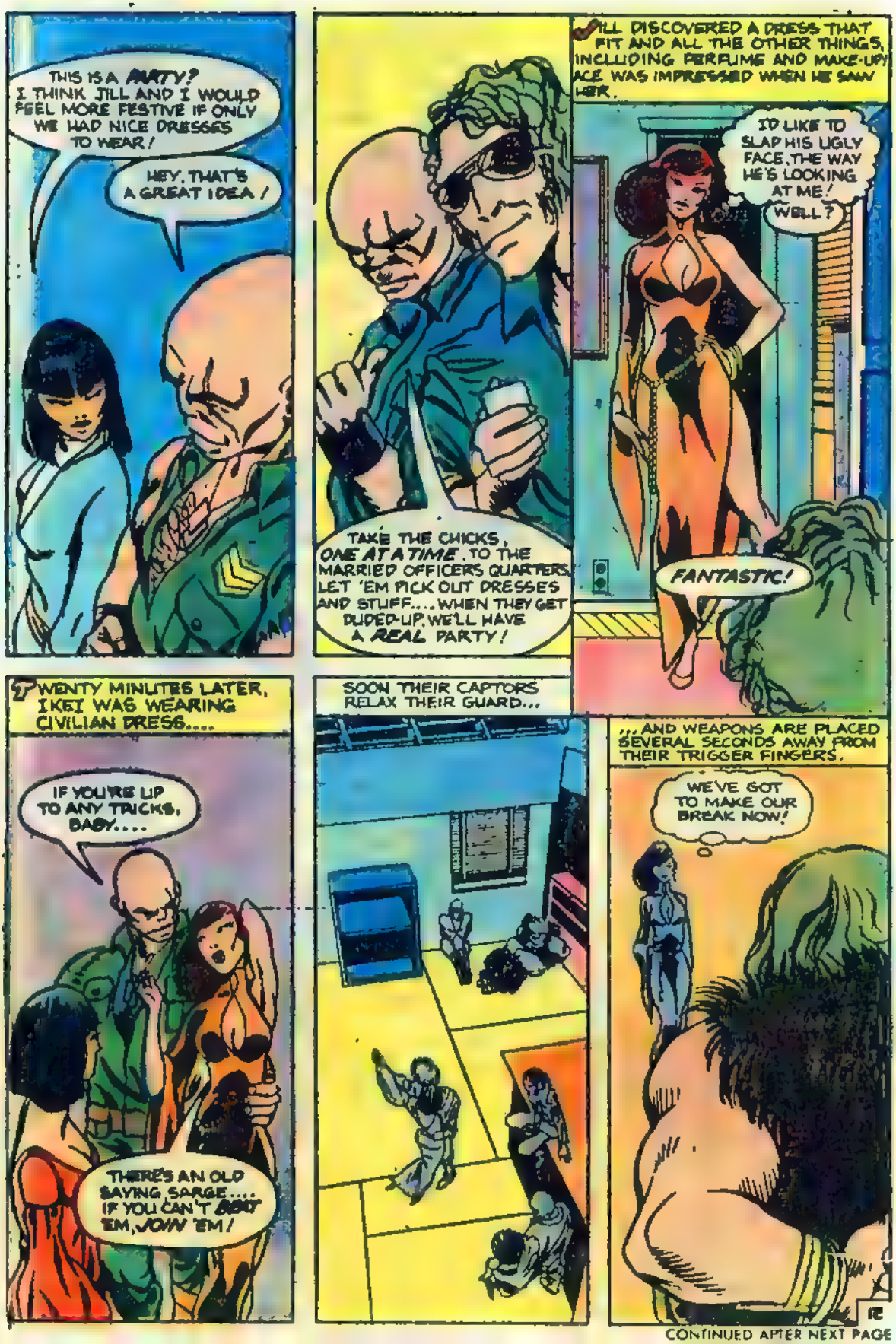

DO WE WASTE 'EM, SARGE?
ARE YOU NUTS? THEY'RE PROB'LY THE ONLY TWO CHICKS LEFT ALIVE/ THE TWO GUYS ARE DIFFERENT....ESPECIALLY FLY-BOY!
IF ONE OF THEM GETS IDEAS, SHOOT THE OTHER GUY.... GET THE IDEA?
YEAH, SARGE.
SPLAT!
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!
HOW DO YA LIKE IT, FLY-BOY?
YOU SADISTIC BRUTE!
THUNK
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
WHAP
8


I'LL BUST YOUR ARM, YOU LITTLE....
HOLD IT, EVERYONE...ONE OF US IS GOING TO GET KILLED IF WE KEEP THIS UP!
IT'S STUPID TO FIGHT. WE'RE ALL FACED WITH THE SAME PROBLEM... HOW TO STAY ALIVE!
I DON'T GOT A PROBLEM, FLYBOY, BUT MAYBE YOU GOTTA POINT.
WE'LL TALK THIS OVER IN THE OFFICERS CLUB. THE DAMES RIDE WITH ME. YOU TWO CREEPS GO WITH ACE AND GENIUS.
TWO OF YOUR MEN ARE OFFICERS. HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE IN CHARGE?
THERE WAS FOURTEEN OF US IN A DEEP-HOLE AREA BELOW THE SILO. FIVE WAS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.
THE SENIOR OFFICER, MAJOR JABROCKI, WAS GONNA COURT-MARTIAL ME. I COURT-MARTIALED HIM.... WITH A .45! THEN, I SHOT THE TWO CAPTAINS.


GENIUS WAS THE RADAR OFFICER, ACE WAS A FIGHTER PILOT. THEY VOTED ME IN AS COMMANDING OFFICER WHEN THEY SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS.
NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN. WHAT HAPPENED? IS THERE ANYBODY LEFT ALIVE BESIDES US?
A SCIENTIST NAMED YOMOROV IN RUSSIA. BUT HE'S BEEN TERRIBLY INJURED. HE MAY NOT LIVE LONG.
YOU HAVE TO PLAN INTELLIGENTLY, MAN. YOU CAN'T JUST WASTE THIS OPPORTUNITY. WE ARE THE SOLE SURVIVORS....IF MAN IS TO HAVE A FUTURE ON EARTH, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF US!
YOU AIN'T GOT A FUTURE AT ALL, FLY-BOY! YOU AND THAT STONE-AGE HIPPIE AIN'T IN OUR FUTURE PLANS!
TIE 'EM UP!
THIS'LL MAKE IT EASIER!
KRAK
TIE KUNO WELL, LITTLE MAN, OR KUNO GET LOOSE, THEN KUNO DAL!
ED KUNO DAL -- KUNO KILL!
10

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE YET, KLINO. THEY HAVE JILL AND IKEI.... WE CAN'T ENDANGER THEM.
KLINO WAIT, BUT SOON..... KLINO DAI!
THINGS ARE IMPROVING AROUND HERE! NOW WE GOT EVERYTHING!
YOU GUYS ARE REAL SWINGERS! IS THERE A STEREO IN HERE? LET'S HAVE A PARTY!
C'MERE LI'L GEISHA GIRL, I....
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
RELAX, IKEI..... HAVE FUN!
I WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THIS OF YOU, JILL! TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH THESE MONSTERS, TO....
DON'T BE A FOOL, IKEI! I DESPISE THEM.. BUT WE'VE GOT TO PRETEND TO BE FRIENDLY AND CATCH THEM OFF GUARD!
OH!


THIS IS A PARTY? I THINK JILL AND I WOULD FEEL MORE FESTIVE IF ONLY WE HAD NICE DRESSES TO WEAR!
HEY, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
TAKE THE CHICKS, ONE AT A TIME, TO THE MARRIED OFFICERS QUARTERS. LET 'EM PICK OUT DRESSES AND STUFF.... WHEN THEY GET DUDED-UP, WE'LL HAVE A REAL PARTY!
JILL DISCOVERED A DRESS THAT FIT AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS, INCLUDING PERFUME AND MAKE-UP! ACE WAS IMPRESSED WHEN HE SAW HER.
I'D LIKE TO SLAP HIS UGLY FACE, THE WAY HE'S LOOKING AT ME!
WELL?
FANTASTIC!
TWENTY MINUTES LATER, IKEI WAS WEARING CIVILIAN DRESS....
IF YOU'RE UP TO ANY TRICKS, BABY....
THERE'S AN OLD SAYING, SARGE.... IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM!
SOON THEIR CAPTORS RELAX THEIR GUARD...
...AND WEAPONS ARE PLACED SEVERAL SECONDS AWAY FROM THEIR TRIGGER FINGERS.
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR BREAK NOW!

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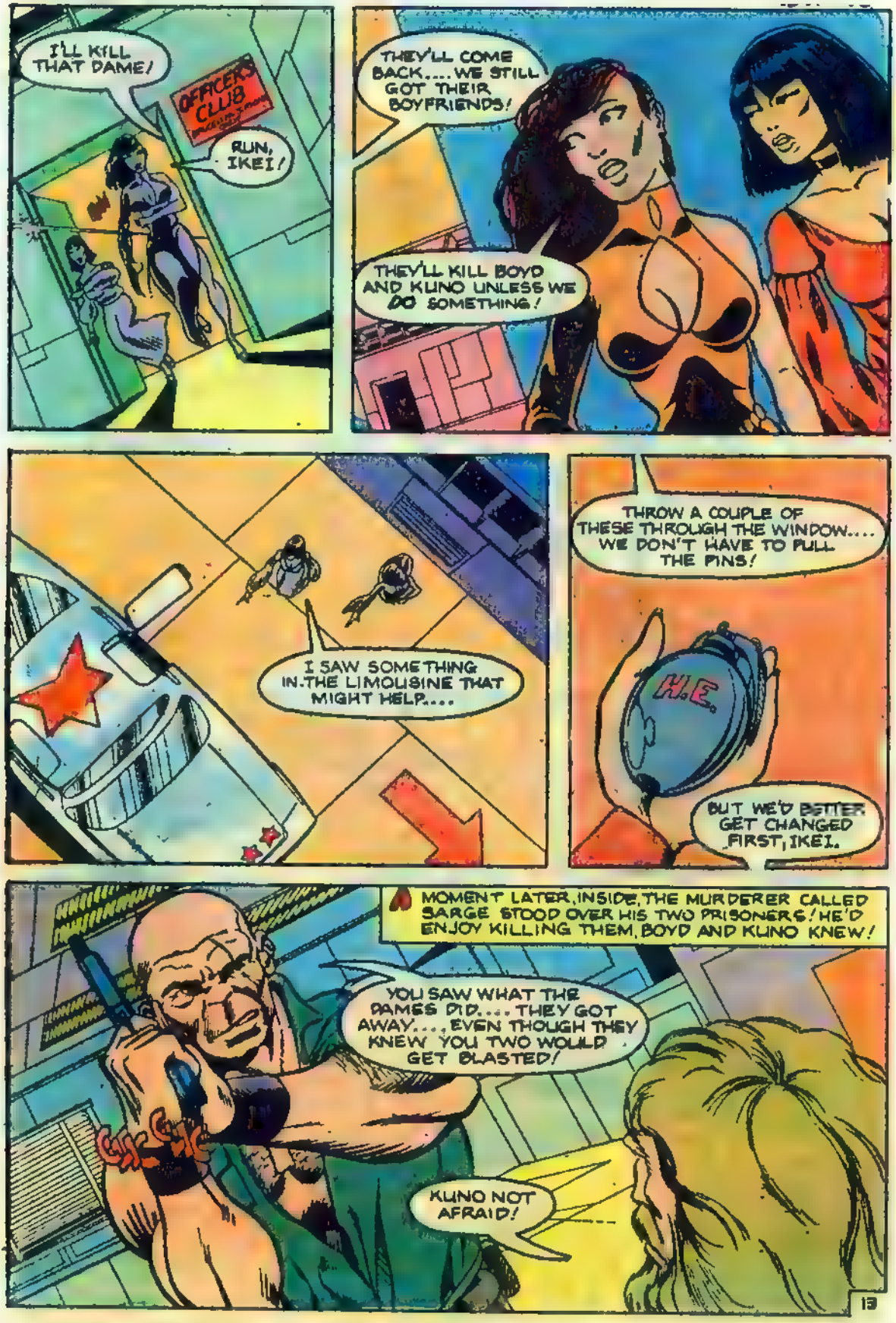
I'LL KILL THAT DAME!
OFFICERS CLUB
RUN, IKEI!
THEY'LL COME BACK.... WE STILL GOT THEIR BOYFRIENDS!
THEY'LL KILL BOYD AND KUNO UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!
I SAW SOMETHING IN THE LIMOUSINE THAT MIGHT HELP....
THROW A COUPLE OF THESE THROUGH THE WINDOW.... WE DON'T HAVE TO PULL THE PINS!
H.E.
BUT WE'D BETTER GET CHANGED FIRST, IKEI.
MOMENT LATER, INSIDE, THE MURDERER CALLED SARGE STOOD OVER HIS TWO PRISONERS! HE'D ENJOY KILLING THEM, BOYD AND KUNO KNEW!
YOU SAW WHAT THE DAMES DID.... THEY GOT AWAY.... EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW YOU TWO WOULD GET BLASTED!
KUNO NOT AFRAID!

READY, JILL?
READY!
CRASH!!
GRENADE!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
BR-R-R-R-T
GRENADE? WHAT GR.... AAAHH!
THUD
KUNO DAL!
I NEED THAT GUN!

P-PUT ME DOWN.... DON'T DO IT!
ROW!
THUD
GET OUT, KUNO.... QUICK!
BAM
KUNO MAD!
I GIVE U... OCOFF!
KHAAAAP!

THIS GOOD. WE FIX THEM, BO-YUD.
KUNO HEAR SOUND OF BIRD MACHINE!
JILL AND IKE I MUST BE WARMING-UP OUR PLANE. WE'LL JOIN THEM, AFTER I GIVE OUR FRIENDS HERE A PARTING GIFT!
NOW, KUNO, RUN!
BA-LOOOM
BOYD. .. THAT EXPLOSION! DID YOU...?
I TOSSED THE GRENADE BEHIND THE BAR. THAT WAS MOSTLY SMOKE AND NOISE. BUT IT WILL KEEP SARGE AND COMPANY OFF THEIR FEET 'TIL WE GET....
....AIRBORNE!

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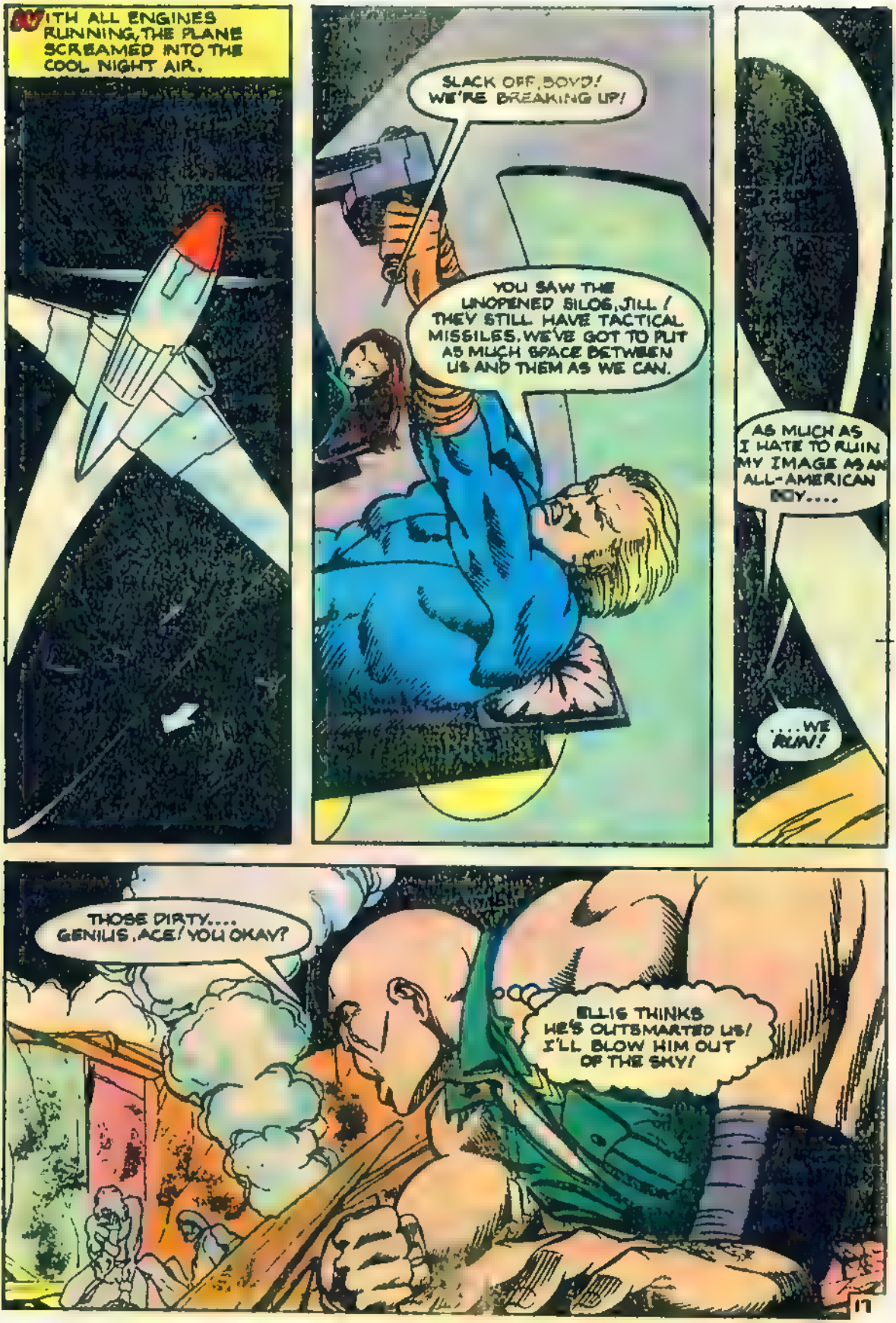
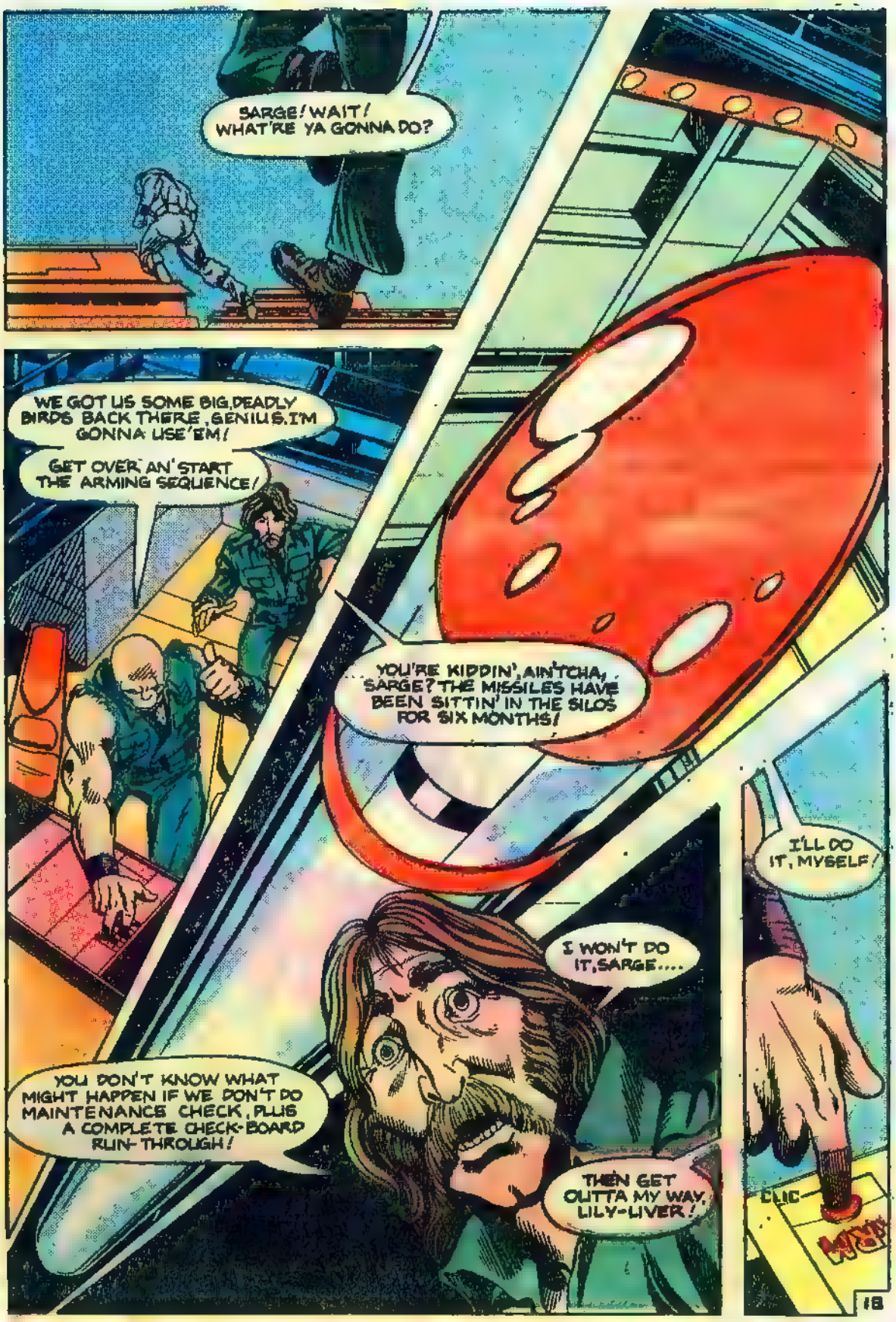
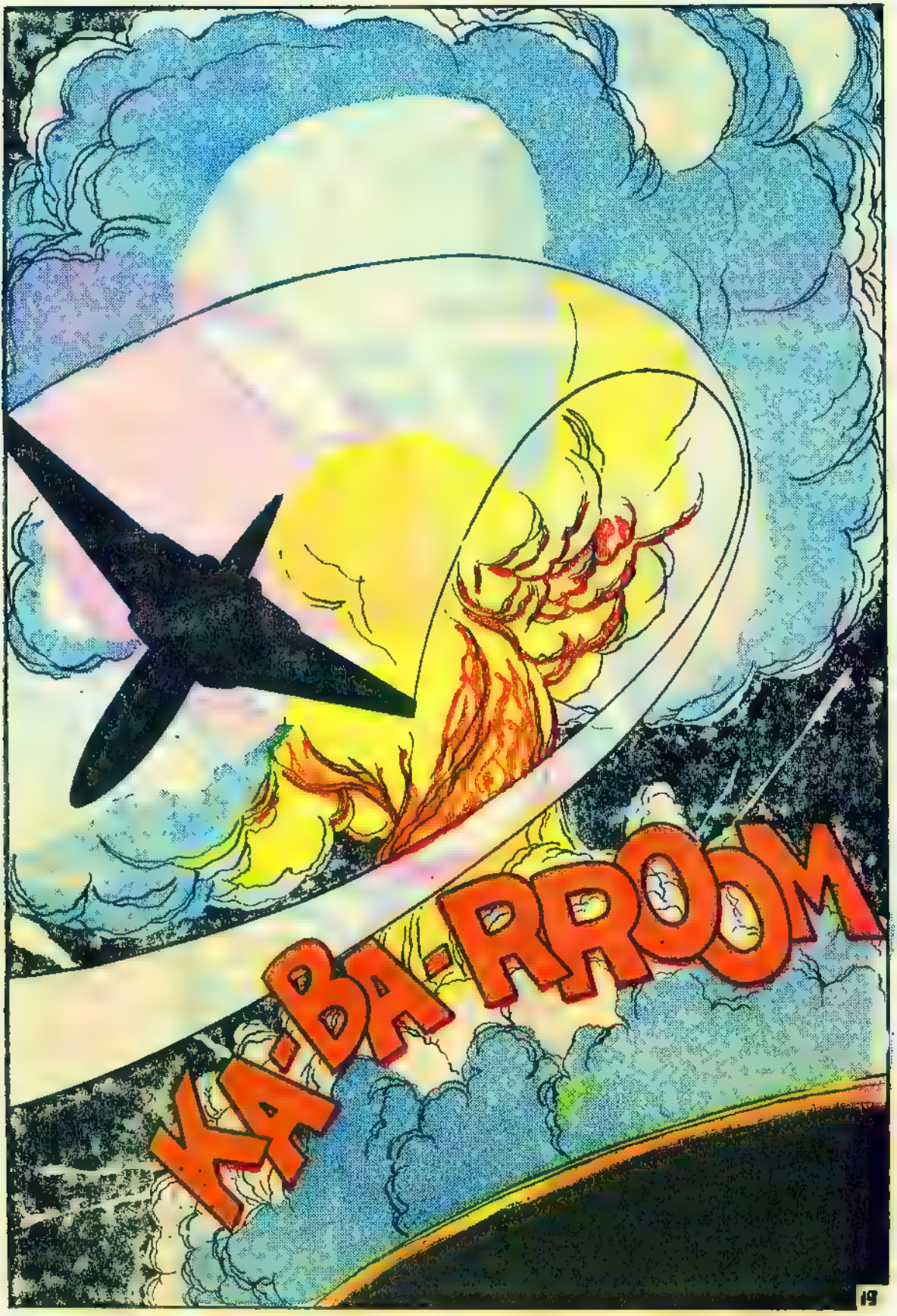
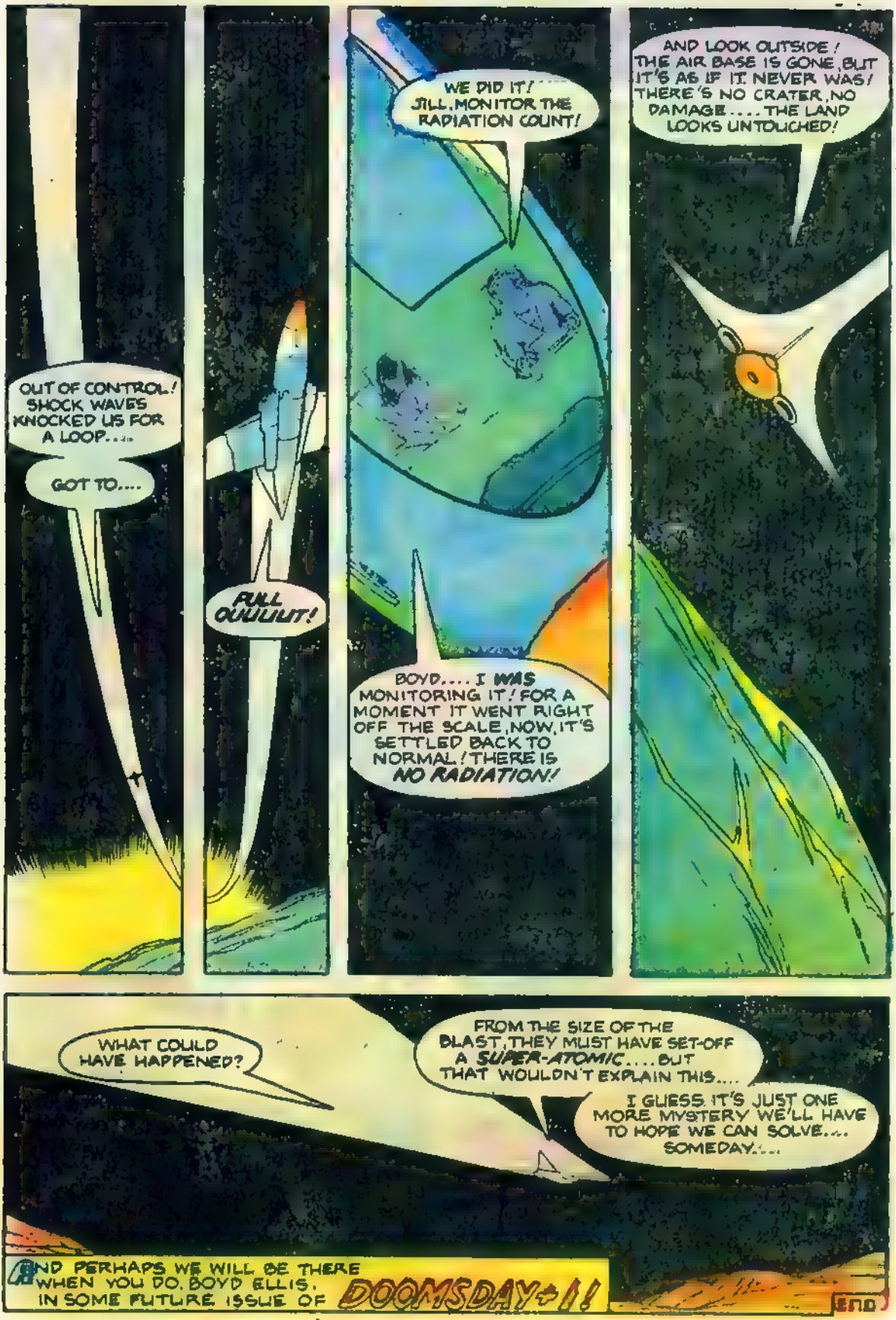
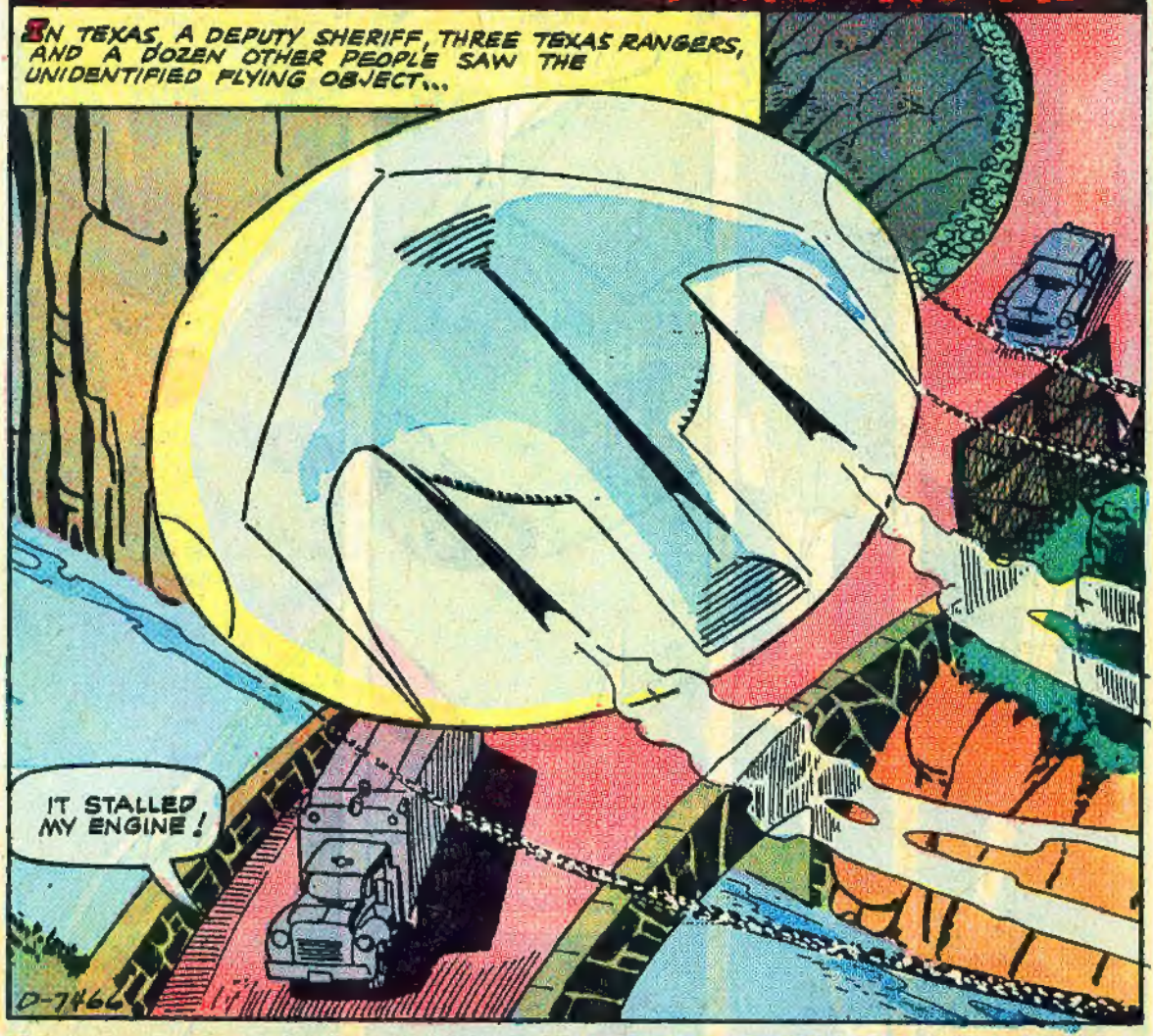

WITH ALL ENGINES RUNNING, THE PLANE SCREAMED INTO THE COOL NIGHT AIR.
SLACK OFF, BOYD! WE'RE BREAKING UP!
YOU SAW THE UNOPENED SILOS, JILL! THEY STILL HAVE TACTICAL MISSILES. WE'VE GOT TO PUT AS MUCH SPACE BETWEEN US AND THEM AS WE CAN.
AS MUCH AS I HATE TO RUIN MY IMAGE AS AN ALL-AMERICAN BOY....
....WE RUN!
THOSE DIRTY.... GENIUS, ACE! YOU OKAY?
ELLIS THINKS HE'S OUTSMARTED US! I'LL BLOW HIM OUT OF THE SKY!

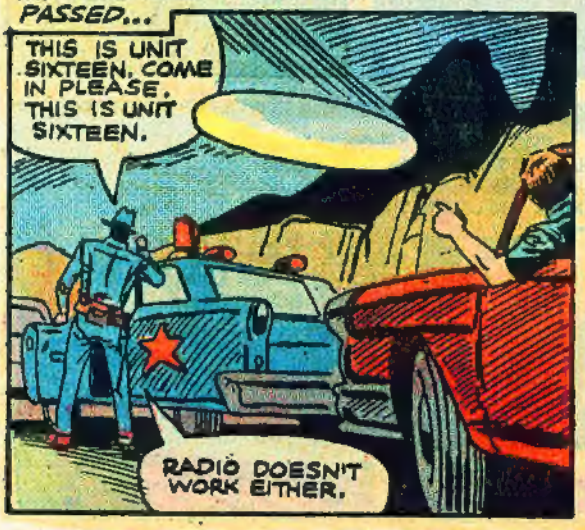

SARGE! WAIT! WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO?
WE GOT US SOME BIG, DEADLY BIRDS BACK THERE, GENIUS. I'M GONNA USE 'EM!
GET OVER AN' START THE ARMING SEQUENCE!
YOU'RE KIDDIN', AIN'TCHA, SARGE? THE MISSILES HAVE BEEN SITTIN' IN THE SILOS FOR SIX MONTHS!
I'LL DO IT, MYSELF!
I WON'T DO IT, SARGE....
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF WE DON'T DO MAINTENANCE CHECK, PLUS A COMPLETE CHECK-BOARD RUN-THROUGH!
THEN GET OUTTA MY WAY, LILY-LIVER!
CLIC


KA-BA-RROOM

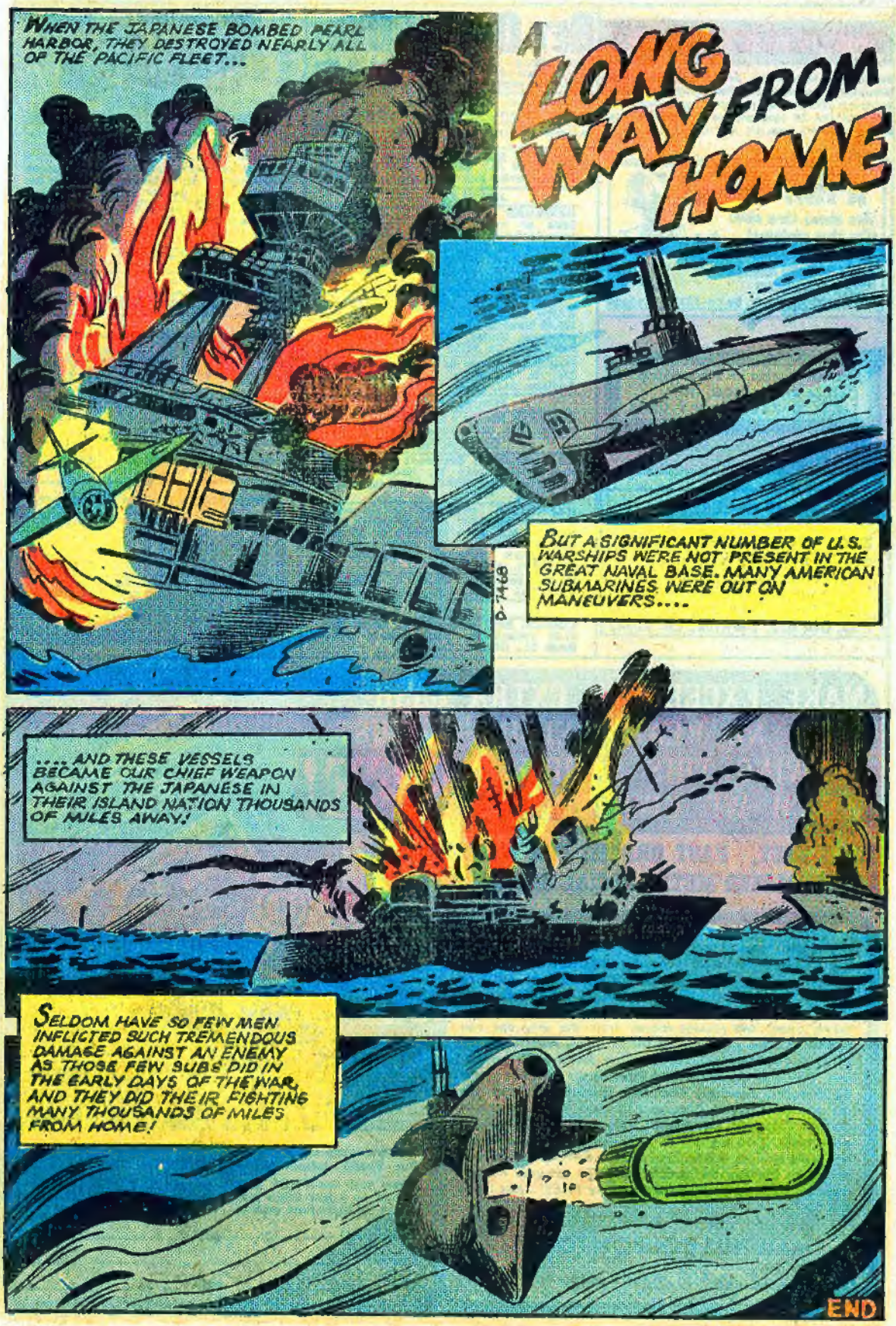

OUT OF CONTROL! SHOCK WAVES KNOCKED US FOR A LOOP...
GOT TO....
PULL OUUUUT!
WE DID IT! JILL, MONITOR THE RADIATION COUNT!
BOYD.... I WAS MONITORING IT! FOR A MOMENT IT WENT RIGHT OFF THE SCALE, NOW, IT'S SETTLED BACK TO NORMAL! THERE IS NO RADIATION!
AND LOOK OUTSIDE! THE AIR BASE IS GONE, BUT IT'S AS IF IT NEVER WAS! THERE'S NO CRATER, NO DAMAGE.... THE LAND LOOKS UNTOUCHED!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
FROM THE SIZE OF THE BLAST, THEY MUST HAVE SET-OFF A SUPER-ATOMIC.... BUT THAT WOULDN'T EXPLAIN THIS....
I GUESS IT'S JUST ONE MORE MYSTERY WE'LL HAVE TO HOPE WE CAN SOLVE.... SOMEDAY....
AND PERHAPS WE WILL BE THERE WHEN YOU DO, BOYD ELLIS, IN SOME FUTURE ISSUE OF DOOMSDAY+1!
END

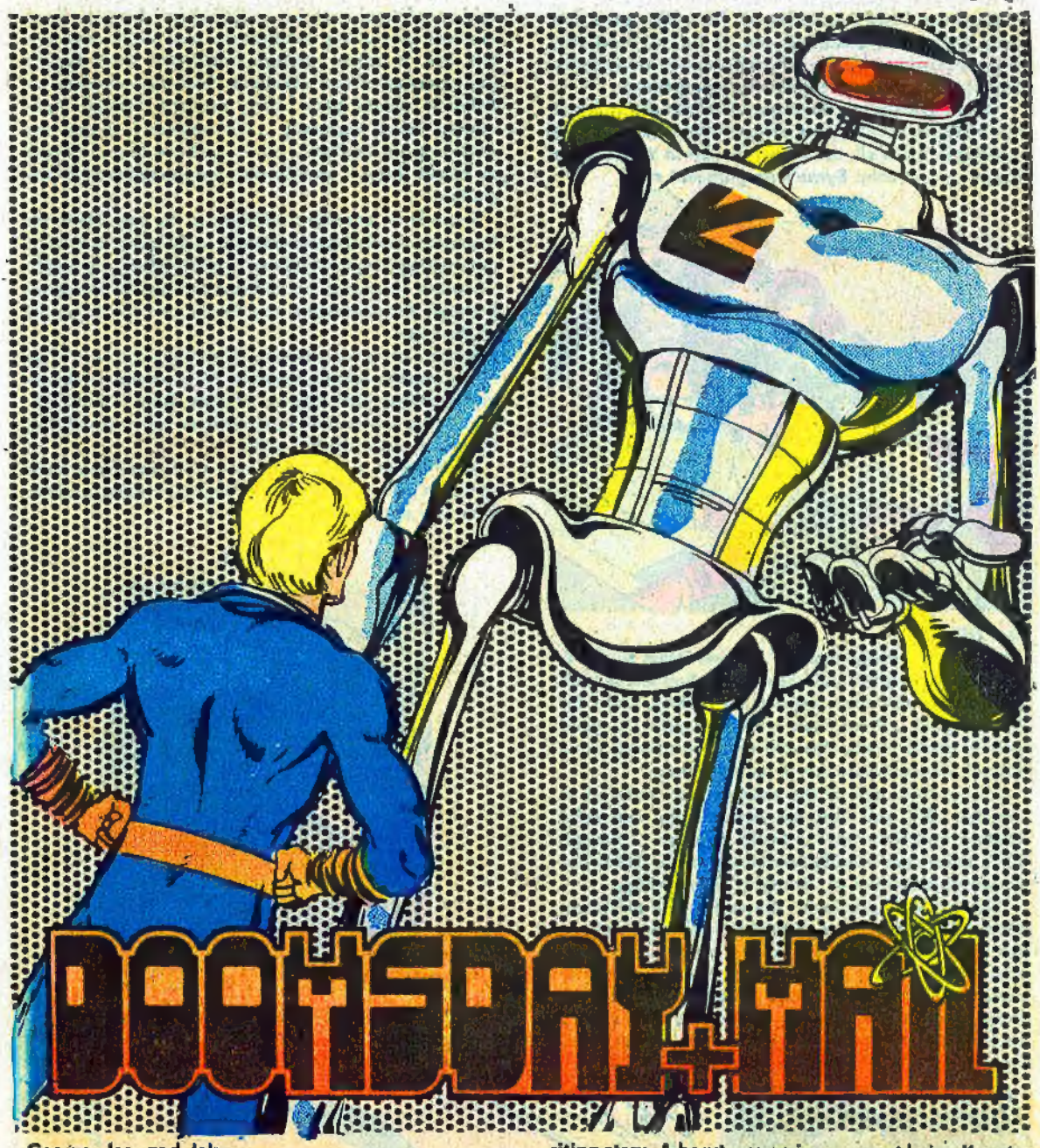
THE U.F.O.'S THAT AREN'T THERE!


IN TEXAS, A DEPUTY SHERIFF, THREE TEXAS RANGERS, AND A DOZEN OTHER PEOPLE SAW THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT...
IT STALLED MY ENGINE!
D-7466


CARS A HALF MILE AWAY STOPPED MYSTERIOUSLY AS THIS FLYING OBJECT PASSED...
THIS IS UNIT SIXTEEN. COME IN PLEASE. THIS IS UNIT SIXTEEN.
RADIO DOESN'T WORK EITHER.

THEY'VE BEEN SEEN. AUTHORITIES WON'T ADMIT THEY'RE HERE AND HAVE BEEN VISITING OUR PLANET FOR MANY YEARS BUT... THEY ARE HERE! BUT WHY? ARE WE BEING WATCHED? IF WE ARE... WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
End?


WHEN THE JAPANESE BOMBED PEARL HARBOR, THEY DESTROYED NEARLY ALL OF THE PACIFIC FLEET...
A LONG WAY FROM HOME
BUT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF U.S. WARSHIPS WERE NOT PRESENT IN THE GREAT NAVAL BASE. MANY AMERICAN SUBMARINES WERE OUT ON MANEUVERS....
D-7468
....AND THESE VESSELS BECAME OUR CHIEF WEAPON AGAINST THE JAPANESE IN THEIR ISLAND NATION THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY!
SELDOM HAVE SO FEW MEN INFLICTED SUCH TREMENDOUS DAMAGE AGAINST AN ENEMY AS THOSE FEW SUBS DID IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR, AND THEY DID THEIR FIGHTING MANY THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HOME!
END



George, Joe, and John,

Again, you amaze me with the high quality of that innovative new comic of yours - *Doomsday + 1*.

This issue (#3) was great all around. Art, story, even the coloring - all meshed together perfectly! John Byrne (as always) turned in a spectacular Shazam - eligible (at least it should be) art job. His machinery, in particular, his robots, constantly glow with life, as do Boyd, Kuno (very interesting character), Jill and Ikei. I didn't have that feeling concerning John "holding back" his talent this issue as I do with most of his pre contributions. No, he went all-out this ish. The most noticeable being the cover - the lighting on the large robot was very eye-catching.

Joe Gill also strutted his stuff with a professional air, making for a fast-paced, well - written, and exciting story. A heart - warming moment being Kuno's simple reasons for not destroying Earth stated to the Peace - keepers. Although they (Kuno and Jill) will appear mis-matched for a time, I'm sure that you people will change that.

A smaller, less noticeable technique that was likeable was the Peace-keepers' word balloons. I suppose John Byrne did it, if not - who? It was a nice little twist in a stagnant part of the comic world.

Well, now that this comic is supposedly booming, all you have to do is give Joe Staton back a regular comic to draw in his own unique style.

Seeya,
Ken Meyer Jr.
Hill, AFB, Utah

Glad you liked *Doomsday +1*, Ken. We agree that John Byrne is undoubtedly one of the brightest new talents to appear on the comics horizon in many years. His flair for dramatic layouts is unsurpassed.

Gill likes scripting *Doomsday*. The four characters in the book offer contrasting personalities and individual problems. All in all, the whole idea lends itself to good scripting and John Byrne's magnificent art.

Dear Editor:

I just finished *Doomsday + 1*'s first issue, and it is most definitely great stuff. Science - fiction seems to be getting more and more popular these days, and I, for one, am glad ... there is really nothing quite like good sci-fi in comic books. Joe Gill and John Byrne have created a tremendous comic for this genre.

Gill has to be one of the most capable scripters at Charlton. Gill and Cuti are deft, subtle, masterful scripters and they have a lot in common ... though Cuti's scripts are usually humorous, while Gill is obviously an advocate of "straight" story-telling.

"Doomsday Minus Two" showed us Gill at his absolute best. In sci-fi, the scripter should always sound like he knows what he's talking about ...however, most writers will let their stories get too talky and any motion the story may have coagulates. Gill used dialogue absolutely superbly ... not only to describe the state that the Earth was in after Doomsday but to show the characters and their reactions ... note Ikei's cold, analytical exterior ... Gill didn't have to keep reminding us of the fact that she was jealous and felt left out. It came through brilliantly. Ditto Boyd's unawareness of Ikei's feelings. Such concentration on emotion would bore young readers, though older readers feel it necessary ... Gill scripted it so that the emotions are implied ... he shows them to us, not tells us about them. I was terribly impressed by his discretion.

Kuno is an excellent addition to the cast. He lends the much-needed comic element to the book, but Gill is not making him into a clown ... while obviously a light - hearted character, he still is a catalyst for interplay between the characters, and thusly, an important part of the book.

Byrne's art is sensational. What more can I say? I've really come to admire his style. He is capable of drawing anything Gill throws at him, from atomic explosions to subtle facial expressions, never sacrificing his unique, sensational style.

With E-Man gone, *Doomsday + 1* is the finest book Charlton puts out. Congratulations all around, and I'm with you all the way.

Bob Rodi

Well, Bob, you seem to approve of *Doomsday + 1*. You said it all, and all of us at Charlton are proud of the book. We're grateful to you for saying it so well.